(a) whether any proposal has been received for installation of eighteen more low power TV transmitters in Orissa and upgradation of TV transmitters at Sambalpur, Rourkela and Berhampore;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to install required number of transmitters in Orissa in order to ensure 100 per cent coverage of State population ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Requests for upgradation of TV transmitter at Sar. balpur, Rourkela and Berhampore and establishment of additional low power transmitter in Orissa have been received in the past from various quarters.

(b) HPT of 1KW power at Sambalpur has since been upgraded to a 10 KW HPT with a new tower and additional HPT (10KW) for DD2 coverage has also been commissioned at Sambalpur. LPT at Berhampore has been upgraded to an HPT. The LPT and VLPT at Rourkela for DD1 and DD2 coverage respectively are in service, therefore, there is no scheme to upgrade any of these transmitters. At present, 95 transmitters [DD1-84 (HPTs-5, LPTs-61, VLPTs-18) and DD2-11 (HPTs -2, LPTs-7, VLPTs-2)] of varying power are functioning in Orissa.

(c) DD coverage is presently, estimated to be available to about 93.3% population of Orissa. The thrust in Tenth Plan of DDn is to provide TV coverage to uncovered areas of the country with a multi channel bouquet in free to air mode through satellite transmission in Ku-Band.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Growth in Exports

4487. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Economic Survey 2002-03 has emphasized that growth in exports is one of the critical factors for achieving higher economic growth;

(b) whether the Budget proposal for the year 2003-04 envisaged any reliefs/ incentives with a view to strengthening the export efforts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Economic Survey

2002-03 has emphasized that exports hold the key to achieving a sustainable balance between the requirement of higher growth and ensuring viability of external sector.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Promotion of exports is one of the five priorities envisaged in the Union Budget 2003-04. Several measures covering merchandise goods and services exports have been taken in the Union Budget 2003-04. These include reduction in custom duty on imports of capital goods and other inputs required for export production, income tax concessions to industries/services sectors having export potential, enhanced outlay for infrastructure sector which will help exports, measures to help Special Economic Zones and a number of trade facilitation measures all of which would go a long way in strengthening the export efforts of the country.

Competitiveness of Indian Exports in International Market

†4488. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian exports have not yet become competitive in international market in terms of cost and quality due to which we have not been able to achieve success in the field of exports;

(b) whether annual export of India is still hanging around 5 billion dollars;

(c) if so, whether Indian goods are in position to compete in international market in terms of cost and quality; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts being made by Government to suitably amend the export policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Indian exports are competitive both in terms of cost and quality and the annual export of India is not 5 billion dollars, in fact, India's exports of merchandise goods is US $ 51.7 billion in 2002-03. India has attained a growth rate of 18.05% exceeding the target of 12% despite the depressing World Economic and Trade Environment. As per WTO, India's export growth rate in 2002 at 15 % is the second highest among the thirty leading exporters of merchandise goods in the world. All this reflects the level of India's export competitiveness in the global market.

(d) Export promotion being a constant endeavour a medium term Export Strategy to be co-terminus with the Tenth Plan Period (2002-07) was announced in January, 2002 with the objective of achieving 1% of world exports. In line with

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.